

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

Due to extensive amendments, both substantive and in matters of form to place the claims in better form for U.S. practice, the Applicants have canceled claims 1-10 and added new claims 11-18. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 11-18 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scholtens et. al. (US 7,054,273) in view of Rosu (US 5,359,649). The Applicants have amended the claims to better distinguish the claimed invention from Scholtens and Rosu. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 recites a method of testing end to end relations between an originating gateway and a destination gateway in an IP network. Of note, the originating gateway reserves call handling resources in the originating gateway for the end to end test, and once a session is established between the originating gateway and the destination gateway, the originating gateway sends a seizure signal to the destination gateway. The seizure signal indicates that the end to end test is to be performed, which interface to use for the test, and a desired number of call handling resources to be used for the test. A signal of this type is not taught or suggested by Scholtens or Rosu.

Additionally, the originating gateway receives a resource ready acknowledgment signal from the destination gateway, which indicates that the desired resources are available. Only then does the originating gateway configure the reserved call handling resources in the originating gateway with appropriate data for the test, and send a plurality of test data packets with the data for the test to the destination gateway. This feature also does not appear to be taught or suggested by Scholtens or Rosu.

The destination gateway receives the packets and distinguishes the test data packets from other data traffic in the destination gateway on the basis of the source address field in the test data packet headers. The destination gateway then loops back the received test data packets to the originating gateway by exchanging source and destination address fields in the packet headers of the test data packets, while sending other data traffic to defined destinations. This feature of looping back the test packets while treating other traffic normally is not taught or suggested by Scholtens and Rosu. This is a significant advantage to perform the loop back test while not adversely affecting other traffic.

The originating gateway receives the looped back test data packets and calculates quality statistics for the received data packets. The Examiner contends this feature is disclosed by Rosu, but Rosu does not appear to disclose that the calculation of quality statistics is performed in an originating gateway during a loop back test.

Basis for the amendments regarding the steps performed in the originating gateway is found in the originally filed specification on page 7, line 25 through page 8, line 5; page 8, line 16 through page 9, line 2; and page 9, lines 17-21. Basis for the amendments regarding the steps performed in the destination gateway is found in the originally filed specification on page 8, lines 6-16; and page 9, lines 2-17.

For all the above reasons, the Applicants contend that the new amended claims are not taught or suggested by Scholtens and Rosu. Therefore, the allowance of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-14 depend from claim 11 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 11. Therefore, the allowance of claims 12-14 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 15 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 11. Therefore, the allowance of claim 15 is respectfully requested for the reasons discussed above.

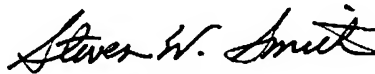
Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 15. Therefore, the allowance of claims 16-18 is respectfully requested.

3.) Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 11-18.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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